

November 18, 1999

0044 '99 NOV 30 P210

Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney:

An article in September's "Consumer Reports" quotes you as saying that federal law doesn't give FDA authority to require food labeling based solely on consumers' interest in the method of development. But doesn't the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act require that a **food-**product label must reveal information such as substantial changes in the composition of a food? Altering of genes can very reasonably be considered a substantial change.

For whatever reasons, FDA decided to interpret the law in a way that has made it difficult, if not impossible, for consumers to know that their food has been genetically altered. "Consumer Reports" now recommends that federal officials require labeling of all foods containing genetically-engineered ingredients. If a bill to require labeling of those foods were introduced in Congress, would you be in favor of it?

Yours truly,



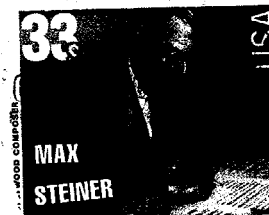
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cc: Senator Olympia Snowe
Senator Susan Collins
Congressman Thomas Allen
Congressman John Baldacci

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